



**Montgomery County, MD  
Commission on People with Disabilities  
Annual Retreat Meeting Summary Minutes  
November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Welcome and Approval of October Meeting Summary Minutes:**

Trish Gallalee, Chair, convened the meeting. Aaron Kaufman, Commissioner, motioned for the October Meeting Summary Minutes to be approved. Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the October Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**Presentation: "Montgomery County: Budget Process & Fiscal Outlook Highlights of the Office of Management and Budget, November 1, 2010" – Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services**

Dr. Kenney discussed the challenges that the County is facing in Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) as well as what the County will face during Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12). He explained that Health & Human Services (HHS) is composed of the following service areas: Aging and Disability Services (ADS), Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS), Children, Youth and Family Services (CYS), Public Health Services (PHS), and Special Needs Housing (SNH).

Mr. Leggett, in anticipation that Question A: Emergency Medical Services Transport Fee would be defeated at the polls, had submitted to the County Council a proposal of \$14M in budget reductions. Since Question A was voted against on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 the proposal is now being reviewed by the County Council. In regards to services directly individuals with disabilities and seniors, the proposed cuts include:

- In Home Services - \$100,000 – This reduction will affect eleven current applicants for personal care services. The reduction will required that these assessed clients stay on the waiting list for the personal care services that may help them to remain in their homes in the community.
- Call 'N' Ride - \$1,036,000 – Reduce from 2 coupon books per month to 1.
- The proposed cuts also include 500 hours of unspecified operating dollars, much of which will be in contracts with private partners.

At this point, Departments have already cut out programs considered to be non-essential. They are now tasked with making cuts to critical and essential services. The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) has not confirmed what the target reduction will be. The chart on the back of Attachment B is a proposal of a hypothetical reduction of 10% to Aging and Disability Services. Community Support Network is the largest part of ADS' budget. It's administered by Lauren Newman and involves Autism Waiver services and service coordination. Senior Community Services includes legal assistance, minor transportation. Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services includes adult protective services and other case management and is comprised of mostly nurses and social workers. Assisted Living Services are used by 60% seniors and 40% non-seniors or people with disabilities. The Older Adult Medicaid Waiver program is funded mostly through Federal and State, but the County contributes \$1M to the program's budget.

In terms of home care, the County has become the primary funding source. The County had been providing 164 hours of respite care up until last year. It has been reduced to 130 hours. The state average is 60 hours per individual family meaning the County is already above twice the state average. Home Care services are currently provided between 12 to 14 hours. The State average is 6 to 8 hours. Last year, ADS proposed a budget cut of \$350,000 to cap the number of hours at 15 for current recipients while limiting the numbers of hours to new applicants closer to the State average. Clients have a right to appeal budget cut decisions as it is a State administered program. All of the 18 appeals won. New intakes into the Home Care program were stopped.

In early January, Departments will submit their budgets to OMB which will then be given to the County Executive. By March 1<sup>st</sup>, the County executive must submit his budget to the County Council. This information will also be made public and the Council will hold public hearings. The Council must submit their final budget by the end of May.

On Monday, November 1, 2010 Trish Gallalee, Chair, gave FY12 Operating Budget testimony at the budget forum sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services.

See Attachments -

Attachment A: General Strategies and Criteria for Budget Development

Attachment B: Report to Commission on People with Disabilities

Attachment C: November 1, 2010 FY12 Operating Budget Testimony

**Update from the Chair and Vice Chair:**

Trish Gallalee, Chair, facilitated the annual report discussion. She began by indicating the tremendous amount of challenges the Commission will face in the year ahead. She reminded Commissioners the importance of advocating as individuals at the County, State, and Federal level. Trish discussed the results of the online survey given to Commissioners that asked the following questions in regards to creating a more effective and inclusive Commission: What should we stop doing? What should we start doing? What should we do more of?

Trish had drafted and the Commission adopted the following Commission Ground Rules, which will be added to all future agendas as a reminder. These Ground Rules apply to all meetings, workgroups and informal discussions, including e-mail exchanges:

1. Start and end meetings on time.
2. Adhere to the agenda and time allotted.
3. Expect participation from everyone.
4. Encourage contrary points of view.
5. Limit side bars and 1-1 conversation
6. Practice active listening.
7. Be respectful of other commissioners, staff, guests, speakers, and the public.

The Commission will focus on the following three priorities for the upcoming year:

- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation

Steve Riley, Commissioner, discussed holding a resource fair as a way to provide outreach to the public.

**Roundtable:** Isabel A. Torres-Davis, Commissioner, discussed the Housing Workgroup and that she had talked with someone from AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) about their support of visitability.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm**

**Next Full Commission Meeting:** Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – EOB, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD - Lobby Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **\*\*PLEASE NOTE: MEETING HELD ON THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH\*\***

**Steering Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 - 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Tan Conference Room, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Office Services Coordinator  
Betsy Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist